

## **Questions from December 17, 2012 - Introduction Webinar for Michigan Interim Assessments (Updated January 29, 2013)**

**1. What does the number in parentheses mean for High School exams?**

A: On slide 12 of the Dec 17 webinar PPT the number in parentheses refers to the number of course assessments to be developed. For example, High School Science will have interim assessments for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science. For High School Social Studies, there will be course interim assessments for Economics, Civics, US History & Geography, and World History & Geography.

**2. Can schools opt to have paper pencil forms of the assessment as opposed to the computer version since the science and social studies component will be fixed anyway?**

A: The interim assessments will be provided in an on-line format only.

**3. Is Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium or MDE providing Interim Assessments in Reading Writing, and Math for grades 9 and 10? Will those be optional or mandatory?**

A: It is in the development plan for Smarter Balanced to develop optional grade 9 and 10 interim assessments in Reading, Writing and Math. Additionally, Michigan will be developing high school course-based Mathematics interim assessments and 12<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts. Both SBAC and Michigan interim assessments will be optional.

**4. How will assessments (items and reporting) be adapted as new science and social studies standards are adopted?**

A: We are monitoring the development of the new science and social studies and will adjust our item pool as necessary to assure alignment to any new science and social studies standards adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education.

**5. Am I correct that ELA and Math K-2 assessments will be aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or will these first interim assessments be aligned with the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs)?**

A: The K – 2 interim assessments will be developed based upon the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Science content grades 3 – 7 Michigan interim assessments will be based on the current Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs). Social Studies content grades 3 – 8 will also be based on the current Michigan GLCEs.

**6. Will BAA provide guidance as to what constitutes “student growth”, and what x-number of point improvement constitutes in terms of growth?**

A: BAA will work to develop some recommendations of performance levels for school/district use on these assessments as they become operational. BAA will be developing professional development supports and guidance documents.

**7. Will student data files be available for download, similar to the MEAP, MME etc. data files?**

A: Details on how student data will be provided back to districts and schools are in the development stage. Look for more information very soon.

**8. What will reports look like? Will it identify what next steps need to be worked on to improve similar to what NWEA provides?**

A: We have not designed a final report or system at this time. More information to follow.

**9. We were told there would be an opportunity for 2 interims prior to the final spring assessment, is this correct?**

A: This question may be referencing the SBAC interim assessments. For Michigan Interim Assessments, they are being built as pre/post assessments with a long range development plan to include a mid-grade or mid-course assessment.

**10. Will there be assessments developed for grades 9 & 10 by MDE or Smarter Balanced?**

A: Yes, either MDE or Smarter Balanced will be developing 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Mathematics interim assessments. As of this date, we are still waiting for some details from Smarter Balanced on specifically what they will be doing for these grade levels. We will make sure that if they are developing interims in there grade levels/content areas, they align with the Michigan course descriptors (Michigan Merit Curriculum course descriptors for ELA and Mathematics undergoing revision in light of the Common Core). We are striving for high school to make sure in ELA and Mathematics that we have (either MDE or SBAC) interims for each required MMC course.

**11. Will social studies and science be tested at each grade level 3 – 8 or just like currently assigned 5 & 8 science and 6 & 9 social studies?**

A: There will be social studies interim assessment for each grade, 3 – 8. For science, there will be interim assessments for each grade 3 – 7.

**12. Are we doing this alone (Michigan) or collaborating on K – 2 with other SBAC states? Others for Next Generation also?**

A: Michigan is currently doing K – 2 assessments on our own, as we are not aware of other SBAC state doing the same type of work with K – 2.

**13. So the vision is that schools administer the test at whatever grade level the student takes the high school course?**

A: Yes

**14. When would the pre/post assessments be given?**

A: Grade level Michigan interim assessments would be given at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the school year. High School Course interim assessments would be given at the beginning of the course and at the end of the course.

**15. When should students take the one reading/writing HS test?**

A: The high school reading and writing assessments are still in early development, but the vision would be to make the ELA interim assessment available in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**16. For mathematics will there be assessments for Integrated Math 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as for Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 , Pre-calculus? Even among the Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and Pre-calculus sequence there is a lot of variety in content from school to school, district to district and I'm not sure how these tests would accommodate that?**

A: The Michigan interim assessments for mathematics will begin development in fall 2013. A structure of these assessments is under discussion.

**17. Will the mathematics assessments incorporate the eight Standards of Mathematical Practice or will they be only on the math content standards?**

A: See Q16.

**18. Can you say more about the high school reading and writing assessments? Is there one each year or only one in four years?**

A: See response to Q15.

**19. Isn't it a disadvantage for smaller, rural school districts to have kindergarteners who have had little or no computer access take a test on a computer in the fall of their kindergarten year?**

A: The digital assessment experience for our youngest learners is a topic of interest. BAA has been conducting several cognitive labs in districts across Michigan. We are carefully examining the students' interactions with the technology and the assessment items.

**20. Is there a projected date for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) summative assessment?**

A: The Next Generation Science Standards are in the final development phase. It is anticipated that MDE will consider the NGSS for adoption in Michigan during summer 2013.

**21. Will the Smarter Balanced Assessments replace MME in the Spring of 2015?**

A: Yes, it is the intention for the Smarter Balanced Assessments replace the MME in the Spring 2015. However, the legislative requirement to provide a college-readiness assessment is still in place. Validation of the Smarter Balanced assessment results as appropriate for measuring college-readiness will commence following the first operational administration in Spring 2015.

**22. Can you explain exactly which results (interim from BAA vs SBAC) which ones will contribute toward AYP?**

A: SBAC and BAA interim assessments will not contribute to AYP calculations.

**23. Will the Michigan high school assessments include 9-12 or just 11<sup>th</sup>?**

A: The Michigan high school interim assessments will be course-based assessments for science, social studies, and math. It is in the development plan to add a grade 12 ELA assessment. Decisions on the grade 12 ELA will be dependent upon SBAC assessment plans.

**24. Will teachers have the option to only post-test for achievement purposes?**

A: Post-test only is not the intent of these interim assessments.

**25. What feedback will we receive after testing? Item analysis?**

A: The format and contents of the score reports are still under development. We are very mindful that reports should provide instructional relevant information.

**26. How will the Interim Assessments be vetted psychometrically? What will be the process?**

A: BAA will be using similar psychometric processes and procedures for the interim assessments as it does for other assessment programs in Michigan.